With the outbreak of hostilities he had returned to Canada and enlisted with the 37th Machine Gun [Battalion?] in March of 1915. He later transferred to the 36th Battalion. Once overseas he was drafted into the 1st Battalion and went to France. He was in France for 9 months. There he "underwent heavy bombardments around Messines, Plug Street and Hill 60."

The "Clinical Record" describes a condition that today we would call "shell shock":

> He was never wounded but was buried due to shell explosions and after he got out he went to his dug out, says there he had a peculiar feeling, had a burning sensation in his face, felt as if he could not get his breath, went tot he trench to get a drink of water. Says he felt dizzy as if he was going to faint.

He was transferred through a series of Dressing Stations, before arriving at the No. 8 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne were he as diagnosed as a "manic." He was extremely annoyed when some medical people attempted to attribute his illness to intemperance.

In Canada he continued to make the rounds. He was at Cobourg from October 11 to December 11, at the Toronto Asylum from December 11 to December 28, and from December 28 to January 4 at the Convalescent Hospital on College Street in Toronto. He was "on Yonge Street for trying to stop the cars and acting wildly," and returned to the Asylum. He was returned to relatives in England.

In March 1917 Attendant William Nelson was investigated for allegations of cruelty that had been made against him by a returned shoulder.[cxix] Inspector W.W. Dunlop interviewed various members of the staff. Dr. Clare stated that the patient arrived at the Reception Hospital on Jaunary 7, 1917, fresh from overseas, and with the belief that "he had been sent by the British War Office to France on a secret mission." He believed that Attendant Nelson was a spy. Nelson, it should be noted, was 28 years old and had been born in Sweden.

Dr. Forster, Superintendent, testified that the patient was always writing letters. He caught another patient going through his papers and the two patients began to fight. Attendant Nelson parted them, and the private developed a grudge.